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## HOMES FOR BIRDS

There are economic as well as aesthetic reasons for building homes for birds. Birds exert a steady influence on keeping down the swelling tide of insect life.

Forty-eight different species of birds in the United States are known to have nested in homes built for them, says \_\_\_\_\_ (name of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ specialist) \_\_\_\_\_ (title) \_\_\_\_\_ (name of institution). Birds frequently using nest boxes are bluebirds, wrens, starlings, tree swallows, martins, and song sparrows. Also included are chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, flickers and other woodpeckers, screech owls, sparrow hawks, and wood ducks.

A well-built bird house, \_\_\_\_\_ says, is durable, rain-proof, cool, and readily accessible for cleaning. Wood is the best building material and paint greatly increases the weathering qualities. Modest tones, as brown, gray, or dull green are generally preferred. In general, houses should be fairly low, should not be put up in dense woods, and should be on poles rather than on trees. If possible, they should be placed with the opening away from prevailing winds.

Suggestions for building nest-boxes are found in Farmers' Bulletin no. 1456, "Homes for Birds", which is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price 5 cents.

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